

MINUTES
TOWN OF DARIEN BOARD OF EDUCATION CENTRAL OFFICE/
MATHER CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 6, 2012

A special meeting of the Town of Darien Board of Education Central Office/Mather Center Building Committee was held on March 6, 2012. Present were Vice Chairman Robin Woods, Louis Gesauldi and John Hertz. Also present were Architect Tom Arcari, First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Recreation Director Sue Swiatek and Town Administrator Karl Kilduff.

Chairman Norm Guimond and Elizabeth Hagerty-Ross were absent.

Vice Chairman Woods called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Project Update on Mather Center Phase

Mr. Arcari noted that the design team re-evaluated the exterior of the Mather Center and 2 alternate options were developed regarding the bump out from an abandoned stairwell discussed at the last regular meeting. Mr. Arcari provided a rendering of the original design with the bump out removed as a point of reference.

Version 1 kept the bump out and installed new window opening. Exterior access would be maintained. The roof line of the other stairwell would be raised and the front canopy would come off of this new roof height. It was noted that this was partially an aesthetic decision, but it also allowed for more natural sunlight to enter the building. It would reduce the effectiveness of the canopy as a shelter space for users of the facility. Mr. Arcari was questioned on the cost of this version. He believed that it would result in a slight cost reduction.

Version 2 kept the bump out and added glass for the first version, but did not raise the roof of the other stairwell and kept the canopy in the originally designed position. This would keep the functionality of the canopy in place. First Selectman Stevenson noted that function should be driver and the canopy should be function to protect seniors and other facility users. Ms. Swiatek commented on the façade from an operational capacity.

Mr. Arcari stated that he was looking for direction from the Committee to keep the bump out and to address the canopy position. The Committee members agreed that the bump out should be kept and that the canopy should be kept at the lower, originally designed height to maximize its functionality.

First Selectman Stevenson mentioned that the facility should incorporate elements of a shelter to serve as a “comfort center” in a time of need. Mr. Arcari noted that a generator would need to be included in the project and a pad would have to be located on the plans before submission to land use boards. The matter would be discussed further at a regular Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Karl F. Kilduff
Administrative Officer